has informed that as part of the process of obtaining environmental clearance, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP) have been prepared for the uranium mining project in Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh which *inter-alia* includes measures to ensure safety of the people residing around the area. Obtaining all requisite statutory clearances including environmental clearance will precede commencement of the project.

Bauxite Mining By MNCs

†162. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of mining bauxite from a number of new bauxite mines and their sources is being assigned to multi-national companies in the name of modernization;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the tribals opposing such move are being suppressed brutally; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Mining leases are granted by the State Government as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and the rules made thereunder. Before granting reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of minerals included in the First Schedule to the MMDR Act, the State Government are required to seek approval of the Central Government. These proposals are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per various provisions of the said Act. Under Section 5(1) of this Act, only an Indian national or a company registered in India can be granted a mineral concession. As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, no mining lease has been granted for bauxite in favour of any multinational company.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.